GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:83
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
CONFISCATED GOODS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether seized and confiscated goods by customs worth several crores were pending disposal upto March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Customs Department only disposed goods to the extent of 32 per cent of total goods seized during 1998-2001;

(c) if so, the reasons for such low disposal of goods;

(d) the amount spent by the Government in storage, maintenance and security of this stockpile upto 2002; and

(e) the steps envisaged to dispose of this huge stock of confiscated goods?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.83 for answer on 25.7.2003.

a) As on 31.3.2001, the total stock of seized/confiscated goods stoods at Rs.1185.07 crores;

b) Yes Sir.

c) Reasons for slow disposal of goods include time taken in investigation of the case, followed by issue of show cause notice, completion of adjudication and appellate proceedings as well as the verdict of Courts in cases where prosecution is launched;

d) In the five year period April, 1998 to March, 2003, an amount of Rs.12.48 crores was spent.

e) Confiscated goods are disposed of by Commssionerates through periodic auctions, direct sale to cooperative societies and through retail sales to the public.